Patent claims

1.   Method for automatically filing documents relating
to business transactions, in which a computer system is
used to store data relating to a business transaction
for access using one or more business applications and
in which a business transaction is assigned an
identification code, with one or more different classes
of business transactions having different data
structures being mapped in the computer system,
characterized
--   in that a first step involves at least one input
data record being produced from data relating to a
business transaction, said input data record having a
structure which is specific to one or the or each
different class of business transactions and to one or
more business applications,
--   in that a second step involves the at least one
input data record being transformed into an output data
record which can be configured using one or more of the
business applications, and
--   in that a third step involves the output data
record being stored with its associated identification
code, so that the output data record can be read in
full or in part by the at least two business
applications by referring to the identification code.

2.   Method according to Claim 1, where the first step
is performed using a first program module, the second
step is performed using a second program module, and
where the input data record having the specific
structure is transferred from the first program module
via an interface to the second program module.

3.   Method according to Claim 1 or 2, where the or
each business application is in the form of a third or
further program module.

4. Method according to Claim 3, where the second program module is in a form such that the transformation process in the second step can be set by the or each third program module via an interface.

5. Method according to Claim 3 or 4, where the second program module is in a form such that it can read data, which can be selected using the at least two business applications, from the output data record upon a data request from the or each third program module and can transfer said data to the or each third and/or to a further program module via an interface for the purpose of further processing and/or for the purpose of display.

6. Method according to Claim 5, where the selectable data can be selected by the third program module.

7. Method according to one or more of Claims 1 to 6, where the output data record is stored on a transactional basis.

8. Method according to one or more of Claims 1 to 7, where the output data record has, for a plurality of business applications, a specific database structure having one or more tables.

9. Method according to one or more of Claims 1 to 8, where the output data record has, for different journals in accounting, different data areas.

10. Method according to one or more of Claims 1 to 9, where the output data record is designed for access via at least two business applications.

11. Computer system for carrying out a method according to one or more of the preceding claims, having
- means for storing data relating to business

transactions,
- means for storing programs,
- means for executing programs,
- program-code means for carrying out a method according to one or more of the preceding claims.

12. Computer program having program-code means in order to carry out all of the steps in an arbitrary method according to an arbitrary combination of Claims 1 to 9 when the program is executed on a computer.

13. Computer program according to Claim 11, contained in an electrical carrier signal.

14. Computer program product having program-code means which are stored on a computer-readable data storage medium and are suitable for carrying out a method according to an arbitrary combination of Claims 1 to 9 when they are executed on a computer.

15. Computer having a volatile and/or non-volatile memory in which a computer program according to Claim 12 is stored.

16. Electronic data structure, which can be obtained using a method according to one or more of Claims 1 to 9.